

found no evidence of wrongdoing and urged immediate and unconditional release of these funds.

Study after study has shown that development is fundamentally about women: dollars go further and programs mean more when they reach women. Increasing women's access to education, health care, and human rights brings enhanced child health, improved food production, lower population growth rates, and higher incomes—in short, better quality of life for women and their families.

Reproductive health is an important component of this agenda, especially when we look at maternal and child mortality rates. That is why it is so important that we support the UNFPA and in the process advance our other foreign assistance goals.

NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR A BALANCED ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to endorse S. Con. Res. 141 offered by Senator DOMENICI recognizing the essential role that nuclear power plays in our society.

The U.S. Senate must recognize the important role that nuclear energy plays in our Nation's economy, our Nation's energy independence and security, and our Nation's environmental goals. And, we need to acknowledge that like nearly every other source of energy, nuclear power needs our help to continue playing its important role in our Nation's energy policy.

Nuclear energy currently generates electricity for one in every five homes and businesses today. It is important not only in Louisiana, where two nuclear plants produce nearly 17 percent of my State's electricity, but also in States such as Connecticut, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina and Vermont where nuclear generates more electricity than any other source. Nationwide, 103 reactors provide 20 percent of our electricity—the largest source of U.S. emission-free power provided 24-7.

Nuclear energy is also vitally important for our environment and our Nation's clean air goals. Nuclear power is the Nation's largest clean air source of electricity, generating three-fourths of all emission-free electricity. For future generations of Americans, whose reliance on electricity will increase and who rightfully want a cleaner environment and the health benefits that cleaner air will provide nuclear energy will be an essential partner.

Just this past Sunday, the Washington Post highlighted the problems that the Shenandoah National Forest now faces with pollution. Think how much worse our Nation's air pollution would be if nuclear energy did not generate one fifth of our electricity.

According to the Department of Energy the demand for electricity is expected to grow by 40 percent by 2020. In order to continue producing at least one-third of our total electricity gen-

eration from emission-free sources, we must build 50,000 megawatts of new nuclear energy production. If we do that, we are just preserving our current levels of emission-free generation, not improving them.

And, we need to recognize that nuclear power, by providing a stable, dependable source of electricity, is vital to our Nation's energy security and independence. Nuclear power is essentially an American invention. We generate nearly a fourth of the world's total nuclear power and we can do so with domestic energy sources. Hydrogen holds the promise of helping us lessen our dependence on imported oil and nuclear power is one of the most promising ways that we can produce hydrogen economically and efficiently.

There is a nuclear power renaissance in the making. Three of the Nation's leading nuclear power operators have already applied for an early site permit to build a new nuclear plant next door to an existing nuclear plant they operate, testing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new licensing process for the first time. Also, just a few months ago, nine nuclear operating companies and the two major U.S. power reactor manufacturers formed the NuStart Energy consortium to apply for a construction and operating license, COL, to test the regulatory process for actually building and operating the next generation of nuclear power plants.

These are positive signs that the U.S. nuclear power industry is alive and ready to build and operate the next generation of nuclear power—still without emitting any air pollutants, increasing our energy independence, and using the safest designs ever.

Today 29 new plants are being built around the world in 16 countries—most using a design that originated here in America—but not one of them is in the U.S. That must change.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical resolution which will further promote a vital source of energy while helping to pave the way towards improving our Nation's energy security.

ART THERAPISTS VITAL TO THE CARE OF VETERANS

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I bring attention to the impressive work that art therapists do with our Nation's veterans and the significant accomplishments they have made in this field. Art therapists provide effective treatment and health maintenance intervention for veterans, focusing on all of their life challenges, such as mental, physical, and cognitive impairments. Intense emotion and memory, often difficult to convey in words, often are more easily expressed in images with the guidance of a trained clinician.

Art therapists are master's level mental health practitioners trained in psychology, psychotherapy, and the interface with the arts modality. The American Art Therapy Association es-

tablishes national academic standards of education and clinical practice. After September 11, art therapists assisted both survivors and the bereaved, drawing out their traumatic experiences and dealing pictorially with the horror as they moved through the various stages of grief. Similarly, art therapy is used with veterans who struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Research has demonstrated that traumatic memory is not stored in a fashion that can be expressed only through words. Instead, it is retained as visual, auditory, olfactory, and other sense mechanisms. Images may return as flashbacks or nightmares that the veteran is unable to integrate as memory. As a result, these impressions remain a toxic force, causing intense fear and leading the veteran to try to shut off all memory and emotion and possibly leading to depression, the inability to properly function day to day, and estrangement from family. The traumatic experiences that a veteran is unable to discuss or confront, however, can instead surface through artwork. The process of creating the artwork and externalizing intense issues help the veteran to regain control, integrate horrors into manageable memory, and allow feelings to be experienced again.

For example, a former Marine who served in Vietnam and struggled for years with feelings of inadequacy and fear in crowds benefitted considerably from art therapy. He has said that it enabled him to address problems he otherwise did not have access to, thereby helping him to "mourn the pain . . . overcome . . . and feel comfortable within" himself. Another serviceman drew out his dreams as a way of placing combat experiences into the past and therefore to function more effectively in the present. Such life-enhancing and cost-efficient intervention is not only viable as a treatment option, but may be preventive by forestalling full-blown PTSD. Given the number of veterans gradually returning from the current war in Iraq, art therapy has the potential to assist them as a form of rehabilitation. The American Art Therapy Association is currently investigating possible sites and funding sources for conducting outcome studies on the efficacy of art therapy with veterans.

I would also like to mention with pride that more than 100 registered art therapists live and work in my home State of Florida. These therapists practice all across the State, from my hometown of Miami all the way up to the Panhandle. I am so pleased that almost every veteran—or anyone else—residing in Florida has access to the benefits art therapy can offer.

As ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I support the use of art therapy programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities, and I recognize the contribution of art therapists to the effective reintegration, enhanced coping,

and quality of life for our veterans. During this crucial time in the history of our Nation, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to do the same.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN BELARUS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I welcome the unanimous passage of the Belarus Democracy Act, BDA, by the United States Senate last night following similar action by the House of Representatives earlier this week. As co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am particularly pleased at timely adoption of this important legislation. I thank Chairman LUGAR and Senator BIDEN for their assistance in facilitating consideration of this bill by the full Senate.

Repression and stagnation have been the hallmarks of the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka, the leader of Belarus who increasingly tightened the noose around those who express independent views. A series of fundamentally flawed elections have left Belarus without legitimate executive and parliamentary leadership. Against this backdrop, preparations are underway for parliamentary elections and a referendum later this month. The elections take place in an environment in which the regime has intensified its repression of the remaining independent media and vilification of the opposition and their supporters. Lukashenka is also seeking to manipulate the situation to extend his rule by eliminating constitutional term limits for president, possibly paving the way for him to become a "president-for-life."

As co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have maintained a strong interest in Belarus and have tried to inform my Senate colleagues about the increasingly troubling developments in that strategically located country, whose 10 million people have suffered cruelty at the hands of czars, Nazis, Communists and now, Aleksandr Lukashenka. During my service on the Commission, I have met and come to know many of the courageous individuals, who often at personal risk have spoken out in support of democracy in the face of Europe's last dictatorship, including the spouses of opposition leaders and a journalist who disappeared in 1999 and 2000 because they dared speak to the truth.

Belarus, under Lukashenka, has the worst human rights record in Europe. His regime has increasingly violated basic human rights and freedoms. The goal of the Belarus Democracy Act is to help put an end to repression and human rights violations in Belarus and to promote Belarus' entry into a democratic Euro-Atlantic community of nations following years of self-imposed isolation.

The Belarus Democracy Act authorizes additional assistance for democracy-building activities such as support for NGOs, independent media, including radio broadcasting to Belarus, and

international exchanges. It also encourages free and fair parliamentary elections, which have been notably absent in Belarus and which look to be highly problematic when they are held on October 17, judging by the pre-election environment and the regime's tight control over the electoral process.

The BDA includes sense of the Congress language that would prohibit U.S. Government financing, except for humanitarian reasons and U.S. executive directors of the international financial institutions would be encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance for humanitarian needs. The bill also requires a report from the President concerning the sale of delivery of weapons or weapons-related technologies from Belarus to rogue states and on the personal wealth and assets of Lukashenka.

Nearly 2 years after the introduction of the Belarus Democracy Act the situation in that country has spiraled downward. Adoption and implementation of the Belarus Democracy Act will offer hope that the current period of political, economic and social stagnation will indeed end. It shows our concrete support for the courageous individuals, non-governmental organizations, independent media and independent trade unions struggling mightily against the machine of repression. And it shows our support for the people of Belarus, who deserve a chance for a brighter future.

DISPERSAL BARRIER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator JEFFORDS from Vermont for his recognition of the situation we are facing in the Great Lakes with Asian carp. We are currently trying to keep this invasive species out of the Great Lakes ecosystem by constructing a dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. It is very important that this barrier be completed soon before this destructive invasive species makes it way to the Lakes. I know that my colleague from Vermont has the same problem in Lake Champlain, and I plan to do everything I can in the next Congress to work with him to authorize and fund a dispersal barrier for Lake Champlain.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Invasive species are a problem in Lake Champlain in my home State of Vermont. The Lake Champlain ecosystem and regional economy have been seriously impacted already by invasive species, many of which dispersed to the lake from the Hudson River by way of the Champlain Canal. Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut have rendered much of southern Lake Champlain unusable for recreation and stripped value from waterfront properties. Hundreds of thousands of dollars each year are spent to control these plants. The sea lamprey has devastated our sport fishery, and large amounts of money are being

spent on control, with only mixed results. These are just a few species. Once here it is nearly impossible to eliminate these invaders and even marginally controlling them is hugely expensive.

Other invasive species have not yet reached Lake Champlain but have spread widely throughout the Hudson and/or Great lakes drainages. We know they are coming and must act now to keep them out. These include fish like the Asian carp, Eurasian ruff, round goby, alewife and tench. Any one of these could change the Lake Champlain ecosystem in catastrophic ways, and each is moving toward the basin. Invertebrate species such as the spiny waterflea and fish hook flea, as well as aquatic plants are also of concern.

Because of the success of the dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, we are looking for a similar barrier for the Lake Champlain Canal to keep more invasive species out of Lake Champlain. A barrier will also protect the Hudson River drainage from invasive species that may arrive first from the north, like a particularly damaging fish, the tench.

We must move quickly to complete design, and to construct a dispersal barrier in the Lake Champlain Canal. Time is of essence.

Mr. VOINOVICH. I thank the Senator from Vermont and recognize that his State is facing similar problems and I pledge to work with him and the Environment and Public Works Committee to advance authorization for a Lake Champlain Canal dispersal barrier through both the Water Resources Development Act and the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act in the next Congress.

Mr. LEVIN. I would like to join my colleagues in supporting the need for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barrier and pledge to work with my Great Lakes colleagues and Senator JEFFORDS to address the invasive species problems in Lake Champlain through the authorization of a dispersal barrier. I also am pleased to join my colleagues in our pledge to move the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act forward in the next Congress.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On January 25, 2001 in Washington, D.C., police arrested a 17-year-old in a gay bashing incident in the Dupont Circle area after the youth and another young man followed two men leaving a